



AACC

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AACC Events & Activities

January - December 2015

30 November 2015: Presentation of Amana Banking products

On Monday, 30 November 2015, the BAWAG P.S.K invited in cooperation with the AACC and the official Islamic Religious Community in Austria (IGGiÖ) to the presentation of the new “Amana” Bank Products for Muslims in Austria at the historical “Kassensaal” at the BAWAG P.S.K.

Higher representatives of the IGGiÖ, comprised of the Shura-Council, presidents of the biggest associations and representative of the politics, Eng. Mr. Omar Al-Rawi, member of the city council of Vienna and member of the AACC Board of Directors, honoured the event.



Mr. Byron Haynes, CEO of one of the most successful banks in Europe, welcomed the guests. **Dr. Fuat Sanac**, President of the IGGiÖ welcomed his community and thanked for this opportunity of a wider integration of Muslims in Austria and the legality of the products due to a Fatwa, issued by **H.E. Mufti Mustafa Mulluglu**.

CFO Mr. Anas Abuzaakouk and Secretary General of the AACC, **Eng. Mouddar Khouja** introduced the new Amana Products, the planned distribution and the timeline. Three different types of Girokonto will be introduced starting in February 2016. The products are sharia-conform and without interest. They will start in Vienna and other cities and countries of Austria will follow. By the end of 2016 three sharia-conform Islamic banking products will be on the market: Girokonto, Islamic Fonds and credits. Therefore three Key Account Manager from within the Muslim community are responsible for service the new customers. Secretary General Mouddar Khouja emphasized the necessity of every single person to actively support this new historical step.

Mr. Khouja thanked the involved teams, such as, the BAWAG Team and the IGGiÖ Team for their hard work.

The event was accompanied by a dinner by Yasmin al-Sham and the Oriental music of Bashir Mirzo and his colleague.



20-25 November 2015: Austrian Chamber of Commerce WKO and AACC joint trip to Dubai and Muscat



AACC Secretary General **Eng. Mouddar KHOUJA** accompanied **WKO President Eng. Walter Ruck** during a trip to Dubai and Muscat.

The participants attended different events: **Austria Connect Gulf 2015 Conference: „Rethink GULF - From Integration to Education”**, the exquisite ribbon cutting ceremony of **Modul University Dubai** Campus in Dubai Multi Commodities Center (DMCC), one of the fastest growing business zone in Jumeirah Lakes Towers, and which will be welcoming students in Fall 2016. The setup of this well renowned university came as the outcome of an agreement signed between **DACH Advisory Group** who will take care of the establishment and running of the new campus, and **Dubai Invest** who will be financing the project by 90%. In addition to the **BIG 5, the largest construction event in the Middle East** in its 35th edition and which gathered this year more than 80,000 construction professionals and key buyers. Both exhibitors and visitors were able to choose among 75 free certified educational workshops. Thousands of innovative, certified and cost-effective products from 3,000 exhibitors from over 65 countries were presented all under one roof.

President Eng. Walter Ruck hosted a memorable and generous reception at Dubai Creek for all participants. Economic Counsior Mr. Bandera and his team performed an outstanding organization for the event covering all current and eminent aspects in the region.



The journey continued to the capital of Sultanate of Oman, Muscat with a visit of Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development (ITHRAA) and the Information Technology Authority (ITA). **Mr. Omar Al Shanfari**, Deputy CEO for Operations at ITA talked about Oman initiative in the field of Information Technology and Mr. Khouja acclaimed Austria as Number 1 in E-Government and E-Justice worldwide,

universally recognized in the field of civil law and cadastral records as well. Both parties concluded the meeting by agreeing on further promoting the mutual cooperation.

The Austrian delegation tackled different issues with **H.E. Eng. Ahmed Bin Hassan Al Dheeb**, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry inter alia the Dual Apprenticeship and



Vocational training System in Austrian. H.E. Al Dheeb promised to forward it to the Ministry of Labour Force for further assessment.

At Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), **Eng. Redha Juma Al Saleh**, Vice Chairman For Administration and Finance and Mr. Khouja presented to an audience of around 30 persons from board members to business community and commercial delegations an overview about their respective chambers area of activities. In his speech, Eng. Al Saleh quoted the Director

General of OCCI as he acknowledged the AACC as one of the most efficient joint Chambers they have ever worked with. A session of B2B and lunch followed the presentations.

Finally, the Austrian Delegation visited **STRABAG Oman LLC** and heard about its successful story in Oman as a main road constructor with a volume of over 160 Million Euros. They had a tour at Oman Conference and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) construction site, scheduled to open in 2017. OCEC will represent a landmark project aiming at establishing the Sultanate as a major regional venue for regional and international events. It will include four hotels, a business park, retail shopping areas and residential districts, and will be surrounded by a nature reserve for Oman's exotic birdlife, parklands and valley park.

Austrian Trade Representative Mr. Zimmermann hosted a reception at the Austrian Foreign Trade Center for the business delegation. Mr. Zimmerman and his team has organized professionally a well prepared and diversified programme in Muscat.

16-17 November 2015: AACC attends the 17th Arab Businessmen and Investors Forum in Abu Dhabi



The Arab President of the AACC **KommR Nabil KUZBARI** and Secretary General **Eng. Mouddar KHOUJA** attended the “17th Arab Businessmen and Investors Forum” with focus on Investments in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, which was held in Abu Dhabi on 16th and 17th November 2015.

This high-level Forum was sponsored and organized by **Abu Dhabi Chamber**, with the cooperation of the **Arab League**, the **UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and **Ministry of Economy** in addition to the **General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries**.

This annual meeting gathered around 1500 entrepreneurs, bankers, investors in addition to some of the most prominent and influential figures in the field. Among them were: **Mr. Herbert SCHEIBNER**, Former Minister of Defense of Austria, **H.E. Mr. Michael SPINDELEGGER**, former Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Dr. Johannes KASAL**, Former Head of Cabinet of H.E. Mr. Spindelegger and **H.E. Karl SCHRAMEK**, Former Austrian Ambassador to Syria and Brussels.



The panelists tackled relevant issues dealing with Leadership and Innovation within the Arab Framework of visions and strategies, Promotion of business innovation and leadership in agriculture, environment protection, finance, industry, energy, services and information sectors as

well as in communications technology.

The Forum represented a platform for efficient and promising networking among participants which led **H.E. Eng. Sultan bin Saed AL-MANSOURI**, Minister of Economy of United Arab Emirates to express his willingness to visit Austria in 2016.



Besides of the conference a meeting for the Austrian and German delegation was arranged with **H.E. Minister Adnan KASSAR**. During this meeting the cooperation between Germany-Austria-EU in general and on the other side Lebanon in relation to the current refugee situation were discussed. Furthermore the initiative of AACC Arab President Mr. Nabil KUZBARI concerning the reconstruction of Syria was discussed.

29 October 2015: Lights of Vienna “Salon-Evening”



In cooperation with the AACC Lights of Vienna invited to a “Salon-Evening” on October 29, 2015. During this evening the factory and the showroom of the company were presented. Particularly, the factory and the producing halls of the famous luminaria of the grand mosques in Mecca and Medina were shown.

Lights of Vienna produces various kinds of light fittings and chandeliers in a high grade of state-of-the-art technology. Their products can be found in many famous mosques, places, and hotels around the world.

The event was honoured by the participation of **H.E. Al-Gheilani**, Head of the Permanent Mission of the GCC to the United Nations, Vienna; **H.E. Mahmoud Al-Hasni**, Minister - Counselor Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman and **Mr. Nadim Khalili** from the Europe Arab Bank and other representatives of the Arab diplomatic corps.

2 October 2015: AACC Reception

On Friday October 2, 2015 the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce in Vienna invited to a Reception at its premises in order to celebrate the newly renovated and refurbished office.

Accordingly, a number of Arab Ambassadors and important diplomats, politicians, representatives of institutions, such as the WKO and the WKW, and businessmen with a strong focus on the Austro-Arab Economic exchange honored us. Most importantly also the Executive Committee of the AACC was invited.

The guests were welcomed by Dr. Schenz, President of the AACC, Mr. Kuzbari, the Arab President and Eng. Khouja, the Secretary General.



President Schenz opened the reception with a speech in which he expressed his gratitude to the company STRABAG, and Böhm for the quick and excellent execution of the refurbishment! The companies were represented by Mr. Burger and Mr. Los.





Then he thanked all the donors and sponsors for the new office.

The AACC office was donated by Arab President Mr. Kuzbari and renovated in 1982. The thanks also went to the companies of Merandi, represented by Mr. Ölhafen for the crystals, the Lights of Vienna, represented by the family Liebsch, for the chandelier and the Europe-Arab Bank represented by Mr. Khalili, for some furniture. The architects A2K and Mr. Rapf and Mr. Janes and their team were also mentioned. A special thank was given to the neighbors of the Kleine Zeitung too.

Mrs. Führer from the WKW and Mr. Pierre PRUNIS from the WKO attended the reception. Furthermore, the AACC were honored by the attendance of their Excellencies, the Ambassador H.E. ABDALSHAFI from the Palestine Mission, H.E. ALHUSSEINI from Jordan, H.E. AL ENAZI, from Qatar, H.E. ALGHEILANI from the GCC Council, and H.E. JOMAA from Tunisia. Moreover, representatives of the Embassies of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Qatar were received.

Furthermore, Mr. Omar ar-Rawi, member of the AACC Board participated, as well as Mr. Anas Abuzaakouk from BAWAG. Mr. Rafat Alshimali played famous traditional songs on the Oud. The atmosphere was great and our guests were able to network and exchange.



A delicious buffet of Oriental food was served and Mr. Hösl presented his alcohol-free wine and champagne.



11 September 2015: SG Khouja participates in the 2nd Arab Joint Chambers Meeting, Paris



On Friday 11, of September 2015 General Secretary of the Franco – Arab Chamber, **H.E. Dr. Saleh Bakr Al-Tayar**, in coordination with **H.E. Imad Shehab**, the General Secretary of the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries (UAC) invited to the **2nd Secretaries General Arab Joint Chambers** in Paris.

The agenda contained the following new issues: Reports on the situation of the individual Arab Joint Chambers in regards to the EUR1. The recommendation by the Arab-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Development of the foundation of a **“Support Fund” by Arab Joint Chambers**. The cooperation for the organisation of the 3rd Arab – European Economic Forum in the first quarter of 2016 in Cairo.

The meeting was remarkable productive and well organised. Under the leadership of General Secretary H.E. Dr. Iman Shehab the measures in order to achieve the certification of the EUR1, were examined. Furthermore, one focus was the refining of the establishment draft for the **“Support Fund”** with support of the AUC. Additionally, Iman Shehab elaborated on the issues of the Arab – Italian Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was honoured by the participation of H.E. **Counsellor Manal Mowafi**, Advisor to Deputy Secretary General for the Arab League for Economic Issues (Head of Chambers of Commerce of Arab League).



28 August 2015: SG Khouja receives former Kuwaiti Minister of Health



On Friday, August 28th, 2015, the Secretary General of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce, Eng. Mouddar Khouja received **H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al-Jarallah**, surgeon, consultant and former Kuwaiti Minister of Health.

They discussed the possibilities of cooperation and exchange of expertise between Kuwait and Austria in the medical field, for example the outstanding Kuwaiti proficiency in the area of gastrointestinal surgery.

SG Khouja praised the expertise of Dr. Al-Jarallah in the field of sleeve gastrectomy operations, through a laparoscopic technique causing smaller incisions, which draw the attention and appreciation of the Austrian doctors.

The Secretary General depicted the Austrian know-how in the medical field, especially bones and heart surgeries and the physical therapy, in addition to the progressiveness of Austria in the field of medical devices.

H.E. Dr. Al-Jarallah explained that Kuwait has made significant progress in the field of health care, and that there is already existing cooperation between Kuwait and a number of European countries in this area.

He expressed his wish for a cooperation with the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce to discuss the possibilities of organizing Kuwaiti-Austrian events and activities in the medical field.

30 June 2015: AACC participates in Exporttag 2015

WKO-President Dr. Christoph Leitl (second from right) visiting the stand of AACC and Bahrain EDB

On Tuesday, **30 June 2015**, the **Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC)** participated in the **13th Austrian Exporter's Day** of the **Aussenwirtschaft Österreich (AWO)** at the **Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO)** in Vienna.

With some 3000 visitors, 35 exhibitors and all Austrian economic delegates present, this year's Exporttag was an important expert platform for informational exchange, presentation and consultation with companies, enterprises and the public.

Like the years before, the AACC's participation as an exhibitor attracted a high number of interested companies and visitors, who approached the AACC's stand for consultations, cooperation inquiries, information, network service and many other matters.

This year, the AACC was honoured to participate in cooperation with its esteemed member **Bahrain Economic Development Board**.

25 May 2015: AACC participates in the 8th World Tunisian Business Forum in Vienna

On Friday, 5 June 2015, **AHATE** invited to the annually held **World Tunisian Business Forum** in Vienna, which focused this year on "Tunisia Sustainable Development in the 21st Century". About 90 businessmen from Tunisia and Europe participated in order to examine possible bilateral investments and partnerships and to discuss the recent economic developments.

The Secretary General of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce, **Eng. Mouddar Khouja** was invited to participate in the Forum, to illustrate the economic potential of a co-operation between Austria and Tunisia. In his report, he presented various topics, among them a brief overview of the Austrian history, the economic situation in Austria and trade volumes of Austria and Arab countries, particularly Tunisia. Austrian goods that are exported to Tunisia range from machineries; valves & electrical

switches; leather; tractors; plastic; paper; paperboard; pharmaceuticals; to measurement devices and others. Austria imports goods from Tunisia, for example: electricals; textile; clothes; shoes; natural gas condensations equipment; vegetables; and others. The keynote speech was held by **H.E. Mr. Abdarahim Zouari**, Former Minister of Tunisia.



In the evening, the Secretary General Eng. Khouja and **H.E. Mr. Ghazi Jomaa**, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Austria, signed a Memorandum of Understanding aiming for a strong economic collaboration at the Ambassador's residency.

1 June 2015: Khouja receives a delegation from the Royal Court of Oman



On Monday, 1 June 2015, the Secretary General of the AACC **Eng. Mouddar Khouja** received **H.E. Dr. Abdullah bin Rashid Al Sawafi**, and **H.E. Mr. Abdul Aziz Al Naddabi** from the Royal Court of Oman.

27 May 2015: AACC invites to Luxury Fashion Reception



On 27 May 2015, the **Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce** invited together with **Popp & Kretschmer** to an exclusive " **Luxury Fashion Reception** " in the traditional luxury fashion house in the heart of the city of Vienna. The Reception was especially dedicated to **Arab society ladies**, members of the **female Arab diplomatic corps**, **wives of Arab diplomats** and **female representatives of both**, Austrian and international organisations such as the **Vienna Economic Chamber (WKW)**, the **OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)**, **UNIDO** and others.



18-22 May 2015: AACC Training Seminar for Senior Representatives of Arab Chambers



From 18-22 May 2015, the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce organized a training seminar for senior representatives of Arab chambers to deepen the relations and promote communication between the chambers. The course was attended by participants from **Jordan** and **Kuwait**, in addition to high-level diplomats from the embassies of **Egypt**, **Saudi Arabia** and **Oman**. The program included specialized lectures, tours and field visits to major Austrian companies such as **Rosenbauer International** and institutions like the **Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO)**, the **Viennese Economic Chamber (WKW)**, the **Institute for Economic Promotion (WIFI)**, the **Vienna Business Agency**, the **Austrian Parliament** and the **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**.



8 May 2015: Meeting of the Arab-Foreign Joint Chambers

On Friday, May 8th 2015, the Secretaries General of the Arab-Foreign Joint Chambers assembled in Vienna for a meeting. The meeting was held upon invitation of **Mr. Nabil Kuzbari**, Vice-President of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC) in cooperation with **Amb. Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Mikhlaifi**, General Coordinator of the Arab-Foreign Joint Chambers and Secretary General of the German-Arab Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Ghorfa) to enhance the cooperation and coordination between the different chambers.





12-14 March 2015: AACC participates in the international Crans Montana Forum in Morocco



The Secretary General of the AACC Eng. Mouddar Khouja participated in the **CRANS MONTANA FORUM ON AFRICA & SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**, which was hosted by the Moroccan city of Dakhla in the period from 12 to 14 March 2014. The forum gathered about 800 participants including presidents, heads of government, ministers and representatives from 112 countries, including 36 African, 30 Asian, 31 European and 15 Latin American countries.

4 March 2015: The Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC) organizes an Economic Panel on Bahrain



In cooperation with the **Vienna Economic Chamber (WKW)** and the **Bahrain Economic Development Board**, the **Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC)** organized an economic panel called : **Bahrain: Gateway to the GCC** on Wednesday, 4th of March 2015.

26 February 2015: The AACC organizes an Egyptian-Austrian B2B Meeting

In cooperation with the **Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Austria**, the **Egyptian Commercial Office in Vienna**, the **Vienna Business Agency** and the **Austrian Association for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce** organized a special B2B meeting on Thursday, February 26, 2015 between the members of a high-level economic delegation from Egypt and representatives of major Austrian companies. The meeting was held in the Expat Center of the Vienna Business Agency and was attended by representatives of more than 60 Austrian and Egyptian companies.



24 February 2015: SG Khouja gives a lecture on “Economy and Islam” at the Austrian Museum for Economy



On 24th February 2015, the Secretary General of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce Eng. Mouddar Khouja was invited as an expert speaker to hold a lecture on the topic “Economy and Islam” at the Austrian Museum of Economy. The lecture was followed by a lively question-and-answer session and discussion with the audience that consisted of approx. 40 guests.